U.S. activities in Afghanistan and Pakistan

1981. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether United States is setting militancy in India's neighbourhood in post-Taliban Afghanistan and Pakistan;

(b) if so, Government's response to these developments; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) The United States has deployed military forces in a number of countries, including Afghanistan and Pakistan, for the purpose of conducting "Operation Enduring Freedom" in Afghanistan. India supported "Operation Enduring Freedom" as part of the global war against terrorism and against the former Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

(b) and (c) Government has noted U.S. Government's statement that it does not seek a permanent presence in these countries. The Government is fully alert to all developments in India's extended neighbourhood and formulates its policies and approach on the basis of the assessment of the impact of these developments for India's security.

Criteria to declare a country and organisation as terrorist

1982. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the internationally accepted criteria to declare a country and an organisation as terrorist;

(b) the names of the countries and organisations declared so far terrorist in terms of those criteria;

(c) whether Bhutan and Bangladesh qualify to be termed as Terrorist States as they are harbouring terrorists operating in India;

(d) if so, the implications thereof and Indian plea to stop such activities from their territory indicating outcome so far; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to convincingly establish that terrorism issue in NER is taken up equally at International level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) There are no well defined or internationally accepted criteria to designate a country or an organisation as "terrorist". However, the Security Council has, on occasion, adopted resolutions putting in place specific sanctions and measures against individual countries or has specified action against certain terrorist organisations.

(c) to (e) In view of the above, do not arise.

British Foreign Secretary's Delhi visit

1983. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether British Foreign Secretary visited Delhi in February, 2002;

(b) if so, what was the intention of such a visit;

(c) whether any discussion took place to end cross-border terrorism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the other issues discussed with various leaders during his visit to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw paid a visit to Delhi on 27 February, 2002 in continuation of the ongoing high-level political dialogue with the U.K. and to exchange views on the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Australia on 2—5 March, 2002. During the discussions, Mr. Straw was fully sensitised regarding